

A PROCLAMATION HONORING THE
CUMBERLAND UNITED METH-
ODIST CHURCH FOR ITS 200TH
ANNIVERSARY

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker, Whereas, while remaining a pillar of faith in its community, Cumberland United Methodist has grown significantly from its initial parish; and

Whereas, Cumberland United Methodist has consistently and generously served those in need; and

Whereas, we acknowledge the varied community service projects and activities the Church sponsors throughout the year; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that along with the residents of the 18th Congressional District, I congratulate Cumberland United Methodist for its 200 years of service to the community of Cumberland.

CALLING ON VIETNAM TO RE-
LEASE IMPRISONED BLOGGERS
AND RESPECT INTERNET FREE-
DOM

SPEECH OF

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I extend my strong support to H. Res. 672, which calls on the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to release imprisoned bloggers and respect Internet freedom.

Since 2002, the Socialist Republic of Vietnam has enforced heavy surveillance of the internet activity of Vietnamese citizens. The U.S. Congress is aware that a number of internet bloggers and cyber activists have recently been arrested and imprisoned for exercising their inherent human right of freedom of expression. This matter, among others, is of grave concern to me, and more importantly, to the thousands of Vietnamese Americans that I represent.

Reporters Without Borders considers Vietnam one of 15 "internet enemies" and the OpenNet Initiative, a project of academic institutions including the University of Toronto, Oxford, Cambridge, and Harvard Universities, classifies Vietnam's online political censorship to be "pervasive." In fact, an electronic communications decree issued by the Vietnamese government, that came into force in September 2008, states "opposition to the Republic of Vietnam is forbidden."

The freedom of expression, including the freedom to express one's views on the internet, is a necessary prerequisite for a healthy and vigorous democracy. Without free and open debate where citizens need not fear retaliation by government for the opinions they hold, a country foregoes the opportunity to harness the full capability of its citizens to advance social and economic development.

Along with my friend from California, Ms. SANCHEZ, I call on Vietnam to respect Internet freedom and allow the people of Vietnam to

freely express their views. Moreover, I call upon Vietnam to immediately release imprisoned bloggers and political prisoners. To the Vietnamese government, the message we send today is that the United States will embrace you, but only when you embrace the inherent rights and freedoms of your people.

RYAN WHITE HIV/AIDS TREAT-
MENT EXTENSION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 21, 2009

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3792, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act of 2009. Our state receives \$75 million in federal Ryan White assistance which provides care to an estimated 10,000 people in the state.

People in Illinois depend on Ryan White Care programs for help with expensive anti-retroviral drugs, to aid them in getting to and from the medical appointments, to prevent transmission from mother to child, and for continued access to dental services through the University of Illinois at Chicago. Throughout the year, I meet with Illinoisans whose lives have been changed because of these services and whose futures would be jeopardized without them. So I am pleased to see that the bill will result in a 4 year reauthorization that will allow states to continue their current programs without disruption to programs currently in operation. I am also glad that the draft continues the extension period for names-based reporting. Illinois is one of the states still transitioning from collecting surveillance data under a code-based system to a names-based system, and the state is grateful for the extended time.

I would also like to acknowledge the AIDS Foundation of Chicago and the many others in the Illinois HIV/AIDS community for being tireless advocates and unwavering resources for me and the 44,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in the state. We could not have accomplished this bill and other important pieces of legislation, like comprehensive health reform without their activism and community organizing.

We have come a long way since the start of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Twenty years ago, someone was diagnosed as being HIV positive and people assumed it was a death sentence. The public was often misinformed about modes of transmission, and the science behind treatment was far more limited than it is today.

Unfortunately, a recent survey by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that the level of attention paid to HIV/AIDS awareness has declined rapidly. The percentage of the American people who say that they have seen or heard or read a lot about HIV/AIDS in the U.S. has fallen from 34% five years ago to just 14% today. The percentage of African Americans reporting has fallen from 62% to 33%.

The public's sense of urgency is down. And yet we learned earlier this year that 3% of the residents in the District are infected with HIV or AIDS, making D.C.'s rates higher than those in West Africa.

Our need to increase prevention efforts and raise awareness about the disease is no less important or any less urgent today than it was when the first cases were diagnosed in 1981. The Ryan White Care Act enables us to continue moving forward with prevention and treatment. I urge my colleagues to support this critical legislation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE OF
MR. CLIFFORD "PETE" TOMLIN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House to pay recognition to the memory of much-loved "Bulldog," Mr. Clifford "Pete" Tomlin.

Mr. Tomlin died in September 2006 at the age of 42. He suffered from rheumatoid arthritis, but his ailment didn't stop him. Tomlin was named the Calhoun County's Outstanding Handicapped employee of the Year in 1989. Tomlin served as the voice behind the Anniston High School Bulldogs including the varsity, junior varsity and junior high football games for both WHMA and WAMA radio stations in Anniston, Alabama.

Although Mr. Tomlin is sorely missed, he would be proud today to know the Press Box at Chink-Lott Stadium of Anniston High School will now proudly bear his name. Mr. Tomlin will always be remembered as the voice behind the football games at his alma mater and this great honor will help keep his spirit alive.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM
MURPHY III

HON. MIKE MCINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 22, 2009

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William Murphy III, of Wilmington, North Carolina, for his commitment to his community and as a dedicated man of public service. As a long-serving youth coach and a retired director at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center, he was an irreplaceable mentor for many inner city youth in his community. He was also a devoted family man and dear friend. Murphy passed away on October 18, 2009, and he will be dearly missed.

Driven by a strong love for his community and a deep investment in its youth, Mr. Murphy coached numerous sports during his lifetime, and most recently served as the head coach of the Wilmington Tigers minor league football team. In this capacity, Mr. Murphy was a valuable leader and role model, who pushed young athletes to achieve things they never thought possible and worked to shape their senses of integrity, character, discipline, and teamwork.

As a co-founder and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Youth Sports, and as a former coach of over 130 young people in three different sports over 7 years, I have a deep, personal respect for Mr. Murphy's